

LESSON



Spy Service

SERVICE

We serve God wherever we go.

Power Text

"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it'" (Numbers 13:30, NIV).

Key Text and References

Numbers 13; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 387-389; student story on page 16 of this guide.

Objectives

The students will:

Know that helping others may involve taking some risks.

Feel the courage to serve in spite of risks.

Respond by having the courage to trust God, as Caleb and Joshua did.

Power Point



We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Twelve men are selected to spy out the land of Canaan. Ten of the spies come back with pessimistic reports, saying it is impossible to conquer the land. However, Caleb and Joshua return with a report that expresses their faith in the power of God to conquer the land. God is happy with Caleb and Joshua because

they courageously trust Him in spite of the risks.

This is a lesson about service.

What God asks us to do may sometimes be risky. He wants us to trust Him as we help others. When God asks us to do something, we can be sure He will give us courage and strength to complete the task.

ONE

Program Notes

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. "TIMBER!" B. Spy Code	Paper, pens, board, and marker
* Prayer and Praise*	15-20	See page 12. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, paper, Bible maps (p. 138), colored markers
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, board, and marker
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	Scenarios	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	Symbols	Colored and white paper, colored markers, scissors, glue

Teacher Enrichment

"Now the scene changed. Hope and courage gave place to cowardly despair, as the spies uttered the sentiments of their unbelieving hearts, which were filled with discouragement prompted by Satan. Their unbelief cast a gloomy shadow over the congregation, and the mighty power of God, so often manifested in behalf of the chosen nation, was forgotten. The people did not wait to reflect; they did not reason that He who had brought them thus far would certainly give them the land; they did not call to mind how

wonderfully God had delivered them from their oppressors, cutting a path through the sea and destroying the pursuing hosts of Pharaoh. They left God out of the question, and acted as though they must depend solely on the power of arms.

"In their unbelief they limited the power of God and distrusted the hand that had hitherto safely guided them" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 388).

How has God provided for me in the past? How will remembering His provisions help me move ahead? How do I limit the power of God?

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their table/small group leader. Have leader ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Then debrief student(s) on their Bible study activities last week. Say: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** (The leader should know what the students' activities were for the past week so he/she can direct discussion.) Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A. "TIMBER!"

Instruct the students to choose a partner. Say: **Pretend you are logging in a forest. One person in each pair is the *lumberjack* and the other is the *tree*. Each lumberjack will stand behind the tree and "cut" the tree using an ax or saw motion (without touching the tree). When I call "timber!" the "tree" should fall backward, keeping its "trunk" rigid. The lumberjack should prepare to catch the "tree" before it hits the ground.** Make sure your students are coached in safety procedures for this activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened when you fell backward? How did you feel? What was risky about this activity? Today our power text is Numbers 13:30.** Ask the students to find it and read it aloud with you. **Remember:**



We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

B. Spy Code

Beforehand, have written on the board in exact order:

71 79 68
67 65 76 76 83
85 83
84 79
70 65 67 69
82 73 83 75 83
67 79 85 82 65 71 69 79 85 83 76 89
65 83
87 69
83 69 82 86 69
72 73 77

You Need:

- paper
- pens
- board
- markers

Say: **Pretend you are spies cracking a secret code. We will be using the ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange). Here is the code's secret: 65 stands for A, 66 for B, 67 is for C, etc. Now figure out what the message on the board says.**

You Need:

- paper
- pencils

Debriefing

Ask: **What does it say? That's right!**



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What are some risks that you face in your life?

Say: **Let's read together our power text: Numbers 13:30.**

Notes

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 96)

"Humble Thyself" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 81)

"All Through the Day" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 77)

"Refiner's Fire" (*Praise Time*, No. 52)

Prayer

In advance, cut out four colored paper "keys" (p. 137) for each student to be used for the next four weeks. Punch a hole at the top to thread a ribbon through. Say: **For the next four weeks we will be learning about the Israelites before and during the time they entered the Promised Land. The key you have been given represents the "unlocking and opening up" of a new land for them. Please write on your key one area in your life in which you would like to have more courage to do what God asks you to do in service to Him. After prayer we will string the keys on this ribbon key ring and hang it up.**

Say: **Dear God: Thank You for each student here and for their commitment to serve You. Please answer our prayers for courage to serve You even when it is risky. Amen.**

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* or another mission report available to you.

Offering

Since for these next four weeks we will be learning about the Israelites entering the "land of milk and honey" you could use either a clean, empty milk carton or a honey jar to collect the offering in.

Say: **One way we can serve God is by giving our offering. We're collecting the offering in this container because it represents the "land of milk and honey" that the Israelites would eventually enter.**

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

You Need:

- paper keys (p. 137)
- pens
- ribbon

You Need:

- milk OR honey container

2

Bible Lesson

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask students to turn to a partner. Instruct both students to stand and face each other with their arms out in front of them—elbows bent. One of each pair—Student A—should have their palms up with their partner’s hands resting lightly, palms down, above theirs. When someone gives a signal, Student B tries to quickly remove their hands and place them behind their back before Student A can “slap” Student B’s hands. Keep repeating until Student B gets “slapped.” Then reverse roles and try again.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was happening in this activity?** (We tried to move our hands even though we knew they might get slapped. We felt like taking the risk to accomplish the task of putting our hands behind our backs.) **What made this activity easy or difficult to do? When have you been asked to do something that was difficult to do, to take a risk? In our story today we learn about people who were unwilling to take a risk and trust God.**

Experiencing the Story**You Need:**

- Bibles
- paper
- Bible maps (p. 138)
- colored markers

Before Sabbath School begins choose three students who will be “spies” during this activity. Each one should choose a different activity from the three listed below to take part in. Instruct them to participate but also to watch the activities of their classmates without letting them know. Have them look for specific things such as who seemed to be the leader in each group, how well the

groups worked together, and whether or not their group accomplished the task assigned, etc. After the debriefing of each activity, ask the spies to report their findings to the rest of the class.

Say: **Let’s read Numbers 13 together aloud.** Go around the group, allowing each person who is willing to read a few verses, depending on the size of your group. Next, ask the students to select one of the following activities:

A. Mapmaking

Supply a large sheet of paper, pens, and Bible maps. Students can make a map of the 12 spies’ journey through Canaan. Have them note significant places such as Hebron and the deserts of Zin and Paran and locate geographical features such as rivers and mountains. Make sure they create a legend for their map so others can “read” it. (See map on page 138.)

B. Spy Travels

Supply Bible maps (p.138), paper, and pens. Have this group calculate how long it would have taken the spies to travel between two specific points on their route through Canaan by estimating the distance from the map provided. Disclose that the average person can walk approximately three miles (five kilometers) per hour.

C. Living Off the Land

Supply paper and colored pens. This group can make a list of and then draw pictures of food items that someone could eat if they were spies living off the land in your area.

Debriefing

Ask the “Mapmaking” group: **Please show us your map and point out the**

important locations for the 12 spies.

Ask the "Spy Travels" group: **What two places on the map did you select and how long do you think it took the spies to travel between those two?**

Ask the "Living Off the Land" group: **Which food items would be hard to get? Which ones easy? What food or drink would you miss the most if you had to live off the land?**

Ask: **Did anyone guess that there were spies among you? Raise your hand if you were a spy. Share what information you were spying on.** To the whole class ask: **What risks were there for them? In what ways was their task like the job of the 12 spies? In what ways was it different?**



We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

Exploring the Bible

Ahead of time write the following texts on a board, but exclude the Bible characters' names.

You Need:

- Bibles
- board
- marker

Say: **There are many examples of people taking risks as God called them to. Let's divide into pairs or groups, and I will assign each of you one of the texts on the board. You will discover a story of someone taking a risk to serve God. Specifically note what their risk was. Then we'll get back together and share what we've found.**

Genesis 6:9-22 (Noah)

Genesis 12:1-5 (Abraham)

Genesis 22:1-19 (Abraham and Isaac)

Exodus 3-4:20 (Moses)

Judges 6:1-35 (Gideon)

1 Samuel 17:1-54 (David)

Daniel 6:1-22 (Daniel)

Mark 14:32-42 (Jesus)

Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60 (Stephen)

Acts 21:10-15 (Paul)

Ask the group to share who their character was and what risks they took for God.



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3**Applying the Lesson****Scenarios**

Read the following scenarios to the students. At the end of each, ask if courage to take a risk for God was demonstrated or not, and if it was, how?

1. Taylor finds a small kitten near the trash dumpster during lunchtime as she's about to throw away her empty lunch bag. She

opens up her milk carton to give the kitten a few drops of leftover milk. Meanwhile Jackie and Mark come along and start teasing her about helping a stray cat. The taunts continue as Taylor pets the kitten and ignores Jackie and Mark.

2. Mike's family has been praying and feels led to become missionaries

in a remote area of Thailand. Mike isn't too thrilled about having to take school by correspondence. He is upset at having to leave his friends and is refusing to go.

3. Tiesha is on a school field trip to the aquarium. Outside she notices a homeless person shivering in the cold. When she gets home she asks her mom if they can go back and take the homeless person a coat. They return and offer the person a warm coat and a sack lunch.

4. Carter is very shy. He admires people who can be friendly and make new people feel welcome. He has noticed how sometimes visitors come into his Sabbath School and the teacher will greet them but the

students don't pay much attention to them. He is determined to change that, even though he is very uncomfortable doing it himself. One Sabbath a few weeks later a visitor comes and Carter summons the courage to say hello and ask where he's from.

Ask: What situations have you been in that took courage? How did you feel God calling you to serve Him? Let's repeat the power text together (Numbers 13:30).

Remember:



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4

Sharing the Lesson

Symbols

Ask students to design a symbol, such as the two spies carrying the cluster of grapes, that would complement this week's power point. Have them add the power point in a decorative way. Have the students show the class the symbol they designed.

Debriefing

Ask: How can you share your symbol and what you have learned

this week with someone? (Allow time for thoughtful responses.)

What risks may be involved in serving God in this way? How do you know you can trust God to empower you to serve Him?

Remember:



We can face risks with courage when we serve God.

You Need:

- colored and white paper
- colored markers
- scissors
- glue

Closing

Ask God to give your students opportunities to serve Him this week. Also ask for courage in serving Him, even when there are risks involved.

STUDENT LESSON

Spy Service

Key Text

Numbers 13

Power Text

"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it'" (Numbers 13:30, NIV).

Power Point

**We
can face
risks with
courage when
we serve
God.**

When have you felt called by God to do something that required you to be more brave than you felt? Maybe it was something small but it still required courage on your part. Imagine being asked to be a spy.

Moses studied the 12 men standing before him. He had selected them carefully—one from each of the 12 tribes. His craggy face suddenly crinkled into a smile. "It's time!" he exclaimed. His eyes shone. "And you 12 will be the first!"

Caleb took a deep breath. He could hardly believe that he was one of the chosen ones. He would be one of the very first Israelites to set foot in the wonderful new land that the Lord had promised to give them. "Oh, thank You, Lord, for this great favor," he prayed silently.

All 12 men listened attentively to Moses' instructions. "I want you to head north into the land of Canaan," he said. "Then go on up into the hill country. See what the land is like. See how many people there are and if they live in towns or in walled cities. See if the soil is good for growing crops. See if there are forests. And," he added, "be sure to bring back some of the fruit that grows there."

The men agreed together that they should leave before the sun came up in the morning. Then they hurried back to their tents to say goodbye to their families and get a little rest. It turned out to be almost impossible to rest, however. Friends and neighbors and relatives, bursting with curiosity, all wanted to talk about the spies' mission. "What do you suppose the land is like?" they asked. "What do you think you'll find?"

Stars were still hanging in the sky when the spies left camp the next morning. They began to hike north in the pitchy darkness. They had a lot of territory to cover to complete their assignment.

The spies discovered that the land of

Canaan was rich and beautiful. "Look at those pasturelands," Caleb exulted. "Our flocks and herds will grow fat here and prosper."

The spies learned that Canaan had abundant water. There were plentiful forests where timber could be cut. They found that the land was big, the cities were big, and some of the people were big too. In fact, they discovered giants living in the city of Hebron.

The spies spent 40 days in the land of Canaan and then returned to report their findings to Moses. The men remembered that he had told them to bring some fruit back with them, so they brought a bunch of grapes they were certain would impress him. The single bunch was so heavy that it took two of the men to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back golden-red pomegranates with hard rinds, and sweet figs.

The whole camp gathered to hear the spies' report. "It's a rich and fertile land!" Shammua began. "Just look at this fruit!"

"The people of Canaan are incredibly powerful," Nahbi jumped in. "They live in large, well-fortified cities. They are prepared to defend themselves and their homes. And some of the people living in the land are actually giants!"

The entire camp had been listening carefully to the spies' report. They were awed by the fruit the spies had returned with. But at the news of well-guarded cities and powerful people (not to mention giants!), they began to mutter, and murmur, and complain. "Why did Moses bring us out here to die?" they wailed.

Caleb listened to the multitude's mood turn ugly. He stepped forward. "Wait a minute!" he shouted. "God is able to do this for us! We should head out now and enter this land. We should attack now! God will make us strong enough to conquer it!"

Joshua strode forward and stood beside Caleb in agreement. "It's a beautiful land!" he cried out. "It flows with milk and honey, and we will prosper in it. The Lord will lead us there and will give it to us! Don't be afraid!"

Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 10.

Sunday

- Read "Spy Service."
- Begin to learn the power text.
- Sing "You Are My Hiding Place" or another song of trust in God.
- Ask God to show you ways to serve Him, even if it is risky for you.

Monday

- Read Numbers 13:1-25.
- List the names of the spies.
- Solve the rebus to discover another term for *spies*: (snake) – ak + (rake) – r + (bars) – ba
- Pray that you will be willing to do whatever God asks you to.

Tuesday

- Read Numbers 13:26-33.
- Make an acrostic for the word **SERVE**. Relate it to this week's lesson (example: E can stand for "Explored the land").
- Share with someone today the "symbol" you made during Sabbath School, or make a picture symbol representing your service to God (like a

picture of two men carrying grapes on a pole).

- Memorize the power text.
- Pray that you will courageously follow God.

Wednesday

- Ask an adult about a time when they felt God calling them to take a risk in serving Him.
- Plan a service project you can do this week that involves taking you out of your comfort zone.
- Think about what feelings you have when you feel called to do something that makes you take a risk.
- Pray that God will give you peace when asked to serve Him.

Thursday

- With your family act out the Bible story during worship tonight.
- In your Bible study journal, discuss with God any concerns you may have about taking risks for Him.
- Pray for guidance in following God's voice in serving Him.

Friday

- Imagine that you are one of the spies. Write a letter home to your family describing what you have experienced and how you feel.
- Repeat the power text.
- Thank God for using you to serve Him.